HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA'S
PRIVATE SECRETARIAT

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SUBJECT

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Sir M. Visvesvaraya's letters to
His Highness the Maharaja
Volume III

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PREVIOUS REFERENCES	LATER REFERENCES

Strictly Confidential

DEWAN'S DIFFICULTIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Further Explanations.

18th Novr. 1917.

(103) T.S. P. 1-9

The following further explanations are respectfully submitted with reference to His Highness' observations on the margin:-

- I fear I have not made my point clear. After my first set of - proposals were rejected, I submitted alternative proposals for

(a) delegation of powers to Members of Council,
(b) transfer of certain departments to the First Member, and
(c) relieving the Financial Secretary of the duty of dealing with papers relating to the Education Department.

Proposal (a) was approved but not (b); and (c) was also approved with the result that, while I did not get the relief expected - from (b), I lost the assistance of the Financial Secretary which I had in dealing with Education cases. - (a) alone will not give me much relief. The routine work of the Education Department is very heavy.

My proposals were interrelated but they were split up and - only partially approved with the result that more work will be thrown on me.

2. My only object in - - using the expression was to attract sufficient attention to a very real difficulty, viz., that I did not - get the relief I sought.

If I did not submit a remonstrance against the orders, it was from a feeling of despair that I could get no hearing.

Reply to the Dewan's Note.

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You say that the modified - orders passed on your proposals of - delegating some of the routine powers of Council to the Financial and - - Chief Secretaries will have the result of throwing increased work on - - the Dewan. I do not see how this can possibly be the case. All that I objected to was the treating of the two Secretaries as quasi-Councillors, and I insisted on their retaining the status of Secretaries only; but even as Secretaries they can relieve you of a great deal of routine work. You have not even tried the modified scheme as no orders have yet issued in the matter; and yet you calmly say that my - decision will throw increased work on the Dewan.

2. I take very strong objection to the tone of your comment - that I promised you bread and gave you a stone. I expected you to - make at least a loyal attempt to - carry out my orders which you - - acquiesced in at the time.

3. I respectfully submit that this is not just to me. - - There are any number of instances in which I have loyally carried out His Highness' final orders - though they did not agree with - my own views. The following are a few of them:-

(1) Nominations to the Civil Service in 1916 (Dewan was not consulted).
(2) Proportion of non-Brahmins in the scheme of Probationers. 33 1/3rd per cent was - - fixed.
(3) Appointment of certain names as members of the Senate. (Dewan was not consulted).
(4) Location of the University at Mysore.
(5) Donation to Benares University.
(6) Postings of Deputy Commissioners in July 1917.

Many other instances - can be quoted. I have never hesitated to carry out orders when I knew that His Highness had himself given full consideration to them.

4. It is an open secret now that Mr. Banerji deliberately flouted my authority, e.g.,
(1) his notes on the Malnad Improvement Scheme,
(2) his attempt to watch my - arrears,
(3) his writing long notes - - indirectly accusimg me of partiality to officers, delay in disposal of business, &c.

If His Highness is of - opinion that I was wrong in regard to the incident in Council, I have nothing more to say but I might - have been told so. I got no answer to my representation.

His Highness is aware that, in order to avoid dispute and controversy, I did not bring up - Mr. Banerji's last undignified - note for discussion in Council. If the trouble he first created had been dealt with on its - - merits, all the subsequent - - breaches of discipline on his - part might have been avoided.

3. As long as you get your own way in matters great or small, I find that everything is plain sailing, but the moment I differ from you in the - slightest degree, you resent my interference and refuse to be controlled. - You accuse me of ignorance and in fact you assume the position of a complete autocrat who is not to be interfered - with on any pretence.

4. In this note you go so far as to say that I have not given you adequate authority or support, and that - whereas I control <u>you</u>, the Members of - Council are not held amenable to discipline. In this connection you practically accuse me by implication of - protecting Mr. Banerji improperly - - against you and destroying you prestige and authority. You say that Mr. Banerji openly flouted your authority and that he was not called to order. - You also refer to Mr. Banerji writing to you what you call a lawyer's letter when he wanted to go on leave. I have never read such a misleading description of your so-called difficulties in Council. On the occasion when you say

Mr. Banerji openly flouted you in Council, I was decidedly of opinion that you were in the wrong and I think I told you so. Instead of submitting to my decision you practically ignored it, and made no effort to smooth Mr. Banerji's ruffled feelings, although he was perfectly willing to make -- friends provided you made the first advance. I will never consent to discipline a Member of Council when I am convinced that he is right and you are wrong.

5. May I submit that my complaint is not that he should have anticipated the grant of the leave but that the way in which the Dewan was addressed by him was hardly consistent with the dignity of that office? It may be remembered that the letter began with the words "This is to inform you .....". This is a style of address which no one would expect even from a superior.

5. As regards Mr. Banerji's -- application for leave, it is perfectly clear that he acted under a bonafide misapprehension that the Rules permitted a Member of Council to grant -- casual leave to himself. When this mistake was pointed out, he at once yielded the point, and I am surprised that you should still harp on this episode.

6. His Highness is pleased to say that I am constantly trying to overrule the Council. Somebody must have given very wrong information to His Highness. The fact is that the present Council Rules give no power to the Dewan to overrule the Members. At a meeting in which two Members are present besides the President, anything that the two Members agree will pass for a Resolution. The Dewan's voice in such cases does not count.

Moreover, as the records only show the final decision, the Resolutions arrived at in Council are no indication of the amount of compromise that takes place in individual cases.

6. You say that the Dewan has to compromise in Council in order to get the decision of the Council in ninety-six cases out of a hundred, but my experience completely contradicts this assertion. I am not blind to what is going on, and I cannot help noticing that it is you who are continually trying to overrule the Council. It is the Council that has to

These facts can be easily verified.

7. All I can say is that some recent events have unsettled the public mind. I may mention - only three, for example,

(1) Attitude in Mr. Garudachar's case.
(2) Hesitation to sanction recommendation in Amildar - Krishna Singh's case.
(3) Interference in Excise Officer Abdulla Sheriff's case.

The Council were unanimous in all the above cases.

For constitutional - - Government, it is necessary that - no other advisers should intervene between His Highness and the Dewan.

8. I beg to bring to His Highness' recollection that I - wrote beforehand to the Huzur - Secretary to obtain and wire sanction to the grant. The question was raised in the course of the - Budget debate in the Legislative Council and a reply had to be - - given before the next day to satisfy the grievances of the backward classes. I sent up proposals with the full concurrence of the Council including the Extraordinary - Member and after consulting the - Financial Secretary, and, when I did not get a reply, I simply - stated that a recommendation - - would be submitted to His Highness. I can assure His Highness that I had no reason whatever to think - that the unanimous recommendation of the Council would not be viewed with favour.

complain of your treatment, not you of theirs. As I said before you are - aiming at becoming a complete autocrat over both the Council and myself.

7. I simply cannot understand you allusion to the question of - - Class preference in the administration. Your remarks imply that my - - policy is to encourage " a canker in the body-politic" by introducing unqualified non-Brahmins into the service. You do not quote a single instance to justify this insinuation.

8. As for your statement that you incurred my displeasure by recommending grant of scholarships of a - lakh of Rupees to backward communities, I can only say that this is - rather a perversion of the facts. - What I very properly objected to was your announcing the grant publicly - without any reference whatever to me, and not to the grant itself.

9. During the period I have been in office, measures have been taken, with the gracious support of His Highness, to encourage the - - backward classes which no Government outside Mysore has yet adopted and no previous administration in Mysore had ever undertaken; e.g.,

(1) Expressly reserving a proportion of appointments among the Geological Probationers.
(2) Do. in the Amildari services,
(3) Do. in the scheme of Probationers,
(4) Reducing qualifications required for offices in the case of non-Brahmin candidates.
(5) Special grant for scholarships for education.
(6) The immense impetus given to mass education which benefits almost exclusively - the non-Brahmin community.

In many other matters, the officers belonging to the non-Brahmin classes have been granted special concessions at my instance. I can confidently say that I am not conscious of having shown partiality to any of the Brahmins as such in the Mysore service.

It is my firm and honest conviction that progress cannot be permanent or satisfactory unless all sections of the population advance together. All my schemes - during the last five years are intended for the betterment of all classes of His Highness' subjects.

9. I am not prepared to admit that you have tried to check every tendency to class prejudice and that I - have unduly encouraged particular classes. It is your policy and not mine - that is causing the increase of class-hatred. No one denies that the Brahmins have an immense advantage over - - other classes in having prepared themselves for Govt. service for long - - years, or that it is the business of - Government to prepare the other classes also, but I refuse to admit that we - are sacrificing efficiency by introducing non-Brahmins into the service. I am convinced that my policy in this - matter is the only right one and I - - intend to pursue it.

10. I have supported the cause of Mysoreans, whether Brahmins or non-Brahmins, because, on principle, I am convinced that it is the right policy but I have not carried out the policy at the risk of weakening the administration. In no country in the world do people go to the extent of inviting neighbours and making them masters in their country as was the case till recently. The employment of experts is quite a different matter.

10. You say that certain classes of officers believe that they are the objects of special disfavour. On this point I can only say that so long as I am Maharaja I shall continue to form my own opinion of all officers of high - position, and if the result of your - policy is to appoint unsuitable men simply because they are Mysoreans, it is you who weaken the administration.

11. His Highness knows what I here refer to. For years, I have been attempting to obtain sanction to a scheme of Principles and - - Policy but I have not got it. I could not initiate action unless I knew it had the active support of His Highness.

11. I cannot understand your - saying that you have received no help from me in building up a Policy for - the State, and that your efforts have brought you more disfavour than help. Vague assertions of this nature do not appeal to me in the least.

I cannot see any point whatever in your definition of the two essential needs of the day, that is, a secret code of Policy to be followed, and the preparation of the people of - Mysore for the highest offices in the State. I am quite prepared to agree - to such a policy or scheme of preparation, as I have, I believe, told you - more than once, but it serves no useful purpose to make a vague assertion of this kind.

12. I must beg leave to explain. This question was <u>not</u> started for the first time at a meeting of officers - called at my instance. The subject was raised in the Representative Assembly by the members (<u>vide</u> subject No.2 and Special Committee's report) and an opportunity for discussion had therefore to be given - to them. After the Assembly was - over and at the meeting of Deputy Commissioners and Heads of Departments usually held under the standing orders of Government to discuss administrative questions, I thought I might obtain also the official - view on the questions discussed at the Assembly. The consultation was quite <u>informal</u> and I had not prepared any scheme for adoption. In fact, even now, I have not decided in my own mind in what direction reforms should proceed. For such a preliminary and informal discussion,

12. You say some people have told me that the Administration has been - giving too much power to the people. I do not propose to discuss what people - have been telling me, but only to give you my own impression of the results - of the recent activities of the Govt. I have no wish to criticise any of the prerogatives or powers granted to the Legislative Council or the Representative Assembly. As regards the Representative Assembly, I understand that you have actually gone the length of - - discussing with <u>officers</u> at a regular conference the desirability of - - -

I thought His Highness' previous consent was not necessary. I may repeat that no special meeting of officers was called for this particular purpose.

I agree that we should not proceed with 'isolated measures' and that ' a definite policy should be decided on before any further - reforms are introduced'. This is - precisely what I have been attempting.

13. May I point out that an understanding was reached last - February that, in important cases, the Dewan should not be openly - overruled without previous consultation with him? Yet, in two - - very important cases, official letters overruling the Dewan were sent. These letters referred to
(1) the Iron Scheme, and
(2) the appointment of Inspector-General of Education (suggesting, among other - - things, Mr. Chakravarti for the place and stating that Mr. H. V. Nanjundayya might be immediately retired).

These two letters considerably undermined the Dewan's - prestige & were interpreted as an indication of lack of confidence in the Dewan.

empowering the Assembly to pass resolutions. If my information is correct, do you think you were right in doing this without my previous approval and sanction? I am perfectly prepared when the proper time arrives to gradually and cautiously enlarge the powers of the Representative Assembly, but isolated piecemeal measures, such as the one above referred to, do not appeal to me at this juncture. The - whole question requires to be thoroughly discussed, and a definite policy - decided on before any further reforms are introduced. The rival claims of the R.A., and the L.C. form in themselves a very serious problem which - will confront our future administration. I am not prepared to consider the appointment of another Member of - Council unless and until you have - - given a fair trial to the scheme of - delegation of work which I have recently sanctioned.

13. I am surprised at your repeating the old complaint that the - - Dewan receives rebuffs when he sends cases up to me and that he is openly overruled.

14. I only made a respectful suggestion that His Highness might be pleased to grant interviews more largely. The decision in such matters must rest entirely with His Highness.

15. From the very commencement, His Highness is aware that I have never wished to remain in office a second longer than I was welcome.

16. Mr. Campbell merely mentioned particulars. He did not say that my views or help were required. He did not say that he was consulting me on behalf of His Highness. The consultation stage came after I had written to His Highness.

17. The points on which His Highness' orders are required are:-
(1) That no one should intervene to advise between the chief Minister of the State and His Highness.
(2) That, before the Dewan is over-ruled, his difficulties, if he has any, in giving effect to the orders should be ascertained and considered and provided for.
(3) That the Dewan should have free access to make representations to His Highness and should be given opportunities of a frank discussion.

14. I can alone be the judge of the people to whom I should grant interviews. Surely you must be aware that almost every applicant for an interview has some private interest to serve.

15. As regards your term of office, I am prepared to grant you a definite extension, subject of course to my right to terminate your services at any moment should a crisis arise in our relations.

16. You are not correct in saying that you <u>casually</u> heard that things were going wrong with the Residency about the Durbar ceremonial, for it was my own Private Secretary who gave you the information in order to consult you. You were perfectly in order in writing to me on the subject, and no one but yourself has ever suggested that you thrust yourself forward on the occasion.

17. I am forced to only one conclusion on the whole matter of your Note, and that is that I am really at a loss to know what you are complaining about, and that you do not give me any materials whatever for coming to any decision such as you say you will cheerfully acquiesce in. It destroys my whole peace of

Such sympathy and support was accorded to me in the first two or three years of my service, and Government work has not suffered - on that account. If the same cannot be extended hereafter, I agree that the Dewan's retirement is necessary.

M. Visvesvaraya

18th Nov. 1917.

mind to have you coming up to me with these repeated and mostly unfounded - complaints, and if you are not satisfied with the position which I have more than once explained to you, - - there is no alternative but for you to tender and for me to accept your resignation.

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